

great citizens that the President talked about. Their names were never in lights nor on billboards, but they are the unsung heroes of my community. They helped in the education of our children, they built strong families and engaging communities. And they taught us to have a strong value system. Let me share with you these outstanding African-American individuals.

HERESA LAVERNE HARRIS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the first days of the 105th Congress are clearly historic and momentous days as a new Congress begins to address the myriad of problems that face our Nation. At the same time, however, I would urge all of us to take a moment to reflect on some of the major events which have taken place over the past few months and perhaps more importantly on the millions of strengths that have made us, and this Nation, what we are today.

An example of one of these strengths is Theresa La Verne Harris, who passed away on November 21, 1996. Throughout her life, Theresa LaVerne touched all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her with her humor, her strength, and perhaps most importantly her dignity.

Born in Beaumont, TX, to Armand Rodney and Geraldine Phillips Richard, Theresa LaVerne was the oldest of three children. She spent her early youth in Louisiana and Mississippi until her family moved to California in 1943. She lived in California for the rest of her life, attending Los Angeles public schools and graduating from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School with honor, in 1947.

It was during her college year at UCLA, where she majored in English, that she met and married her husband of 45 years, Robert E. Harris. Together they had three sons, Michael, Vincent, and Trevor.

Following her graduation from UCLA in 1953, Theresa LaVerne began a long distinguished career with the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] as an educator and personnel administrator. Over the next 16 years, she excelled at her career; she raised three outstanding children; she was a loving and supportive wife; and she went on to earn a master of arts degree in personnel administration from Pepperdine University.

During this time Theresa LaVerne served the LAUSD in a variety of administrative capacities before taking a 2-year leave of absence to serve as assistant superintendent for personnel services for the Compton Unified School District in 1983. She retired from LAUSD in 1989.

As both an educator and an administrator within the public school system, Theresa LaVerne worked hard to ensure that the students under her charge had the best education available to them. While she was deservedly proud of her personal and academic achievements, she was more interested in using her strengths and her assets to elicit the best from those around her.

In passing, Theresa LaVerne Harris is survived by her husband; Robert Emery Harris,

her three sons and their wives: Michael and Anita of Fresno, Vincent and Celeste of Oakland, and Trevor and Kamela of Fresno; her father Armand Rodney Richard of Los Angeles; her brother, Dr. Rodney A. Richard of Pasadena; her sister, Geraldine Constance Speed of Carson; her three grandchildren, Ahmad, Mazisi and Jamila; a great granddaughter, Maya; two aunts, and an uncle; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She is also survived by the thousands of people whose lives she touched and invariably improved, some of whom knew her well and others who simply benefited from her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I worked with Theresa LaVerne Harris and have had the privilege of knowing her and her family for decades. Theresa LaVerne was a devoted wife, a wonderful and nurturing mother, and a role model for all of us who had the opportunity to know her. She will be sorely missed.

As I said earlier, however, it is up to us to remember people like Theresa LaVerne and to build on their strengths and their legacies. It is people like her who should be our role models.

CAROLYN ANN RICHARDSON CHENEY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in these early days of the 105th Congress, we face many of the same challenges of governance and public policy development our predecessors had to address as we confront the problems and opportunities before our great nation. As we look forward, we should pause to reflect on the contributions, both large and small, our citizenry, collectively and individually, have made to the development of our great nation.

In doing so, we cannot help but take notice of Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney, who passed away on December 13, 1996. Carolyn's devotion to family and community service, as well as her generosity, spirituality and faith, served as an inspiration to all who knew her.

Born in Dallas, TX, to Oda Lee Blair and Howard Richardson, she spent her early youth in El Paso, TX, before moving to Tulare, CA. After graduating from Tulare Union High School, she obtained credentials as a dental assistant and began working in Los Angeles. She moved to Compton, CA, where her love of learning, thirst for knowledge and pursuit of higher education continued at Compton Community College. She earned her associate of arts degree and, upon graduation, matriculated to California State University Dominguez Hills. As an honor student, she earned a bachelor's degree in public administration. In 1977, she gained admission to the University of Southern California's master's program in public policy and judicial science. Until health challenges forced her to postpone her graduation, she maintained a 4.0 grade point average as a personal expression of her high standards and expectations for those whom she nurtured and set an example.

Carolyn's ambition, strength, and motivation found expression in her entrepreneurial and

managerial talents. For 15 years, she worked at Sears and Roebuck, during which time she was promoted from sales clerk to floor manager for the home furnishings and interiors department. In 1980, she opened her own insurance agency under the auspices of Allstate Insurance Co., where her firm became one of the top agencies in southern California. Despite her busy schedule, Carolyn found time to serve others through her church and community service activities. Throughout her life, Carolyn's leadership and organizational skills found expression in a wide variety of organizations. She served as president of the Compton Rotary Club; director of evangelism and coordinator of the Angel Tree Program at Tower of Faith Evangelistic Church in Compton; and as a teacher at Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. She was a member of the Torrance/Lomita Rotary Club; served on the advisory board for the California Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies/Black Women's Media Project as well as the board of trustees of Light of the World Community Church. She volunteered in the Los Angeles Probation Department Chaplain's Office.

Carolyn was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in appreciation of her efforts and assistance in the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Carolyn was a loving and devoted mother of four children: Vernon, Giselle, Darrell, and Marcus. Through words and deeds, she instilled in them the principals of honesty, integrity, hard work, perseverance, and self sacrifice. These are the values that helped to make our Nation great and our people strong. The attributes and her example are testaments to the enduring strength of motherhood.

Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney is survived by her sons, Paston Vernon Lee Ward of Hawthorne, CA; Darrell Delaune Cheney of Dominguez Hills, CA; Marcus Sebastian Mason of Washington, DC; one daughter, Giselle Faune Cheney of Hawthorne, CA; seven grandchildren, including Shelly Fion, Vernisha Leshawn, Fallon Veron, Deijanae Zaire, Delaune Marcus, Jazmin Ayana, and Taelor Chanel; daughters-in-law, Debra Ann Ward and Dionne Patric Cheney; daughter-in-law, Chanel Nicole Troy of Los Angeles, CA; aunts, Mattie Bernice Owens and Elizabeth Anthony and a host of extended family and friends. She is also survived by a loving stepfather, Coyal James Marlin.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney will be sorely missed by all who looked to her for nurturing, leadership and strength. Her example should inspire us all to make the most out of our lives and opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA LYON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Priscilla Lyon is a diligent worker on behalf of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, where she organized the first Vacation Bible School. She functioned as director of that position for 5 years. Additionally, she has taught the youth Sunday School, supervised the youth choir, and provided services to the youth missionaries.